

# The Town Crier

A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton



## All That Main Street Commotion -- A New... Old... Improved Look!



It's been a busy summer on Main Street in Warrenton, but crews performing improvements finished ahead of schedule, and the Town of Warrenton never looked better. New sidewalks and street lamps are probably the most visible improvements.

As soon as the tents came down from the 24th Annual Warrenton Spring Festival, Mayor George Fitch signaled the start of the Main Street Improvement Project at a groundbreaking ceremony on May 20, 2002. The project is the culmination of many years of effort from Warrenton residents, businesses and property owners, the Partnership for Warrenton Foundation, the Town Council and Town staff to improve the public areas on Main Street.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Mr. Hunton Tiffany, CEO of The Fauquier Bank, noted that the late renowned landscape architect Meade Palmer was actively involved in the design of the Main Street improvements. In fact, Mr. Palmer created the streetlight design to replicate the streetlights that were on Main Street in the 1800s. The design was titled "The Warrentonian." The Fauquier Bank commissioned the creation of the lights from Mr. Palmer's design, and now the Warrentonian lamps dot Main Street much as they did during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In addition to the streetlights, Main Street also features new sidewalks. Various materials, colors, pattern designs and construction methods were chosen for each block. The design and type of materials used on the sidewalks were carefully considered to ensure that the finished product would be compatible with the architectural character of Main



Street. No one wanted Main Street Warrenton to look like a generic "Anywhere USA."

As with all carefully planned projects, during implementation it was discovered that the original plans needed to be changed to improve the overall design. In some areas,

*Continued on page 2*

## Time to Renew "BPO" Licenses

If your business has a physical location within the Town of Warrenton's corporate limits, you must have a Business, Professional, Trade or Occupational License, often referred to as a "BPOL." And it's time to renew those licenses.

If you do not have a Town Business License, or have questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Finance Department at (540) 347-1102 or visit the Town's web site ([www.townofwarrenton.com](http://www.townofwarrenton.com)) to get information or to download an application. ■

# Town Wins Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada recently presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation award to the Town of Warrenton for its annual 2002 budget (for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002). This is the sixth consecutive year the Town has received this prestigious award.

In order to receive this award, the Town had to publish a budget document that meets certain policy, operations and financial criteria established by the GFOA. The budget document also has to have value as a communications tool, being easily read and understood by Town citizens.

The Town has worked hard to develop a budget document that not only serves as an internal operational



tool, but one that provides the casual reader, "the citizen" of the Town of Warrenton, with a detailed description of the budget process. It also contains significant information relating to the internal workings, purposes, goals and primary functions of the various departments established to provide services, and defines certain policies and procedures established by the governing body.

The Town encourages its citizenry to review the FY 2002 budget document and actively solicits questions, suggestions or comments. The FY 2002 budget is available at Town Hall and at the main branch of the Fauquier County Public Library in Warrenton. It also may be found on the Town's website at ([www.townofwarrenton.com](http://www.townofwarrenton.com)) in Adobe pdf format. ■

## Choosing the Correct Plants for Landscaping Projects

When the Warrenton Baptist Church completed its new parking lot at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets, it offered Town residents and visitors some extra parking spaces every day of the week except Sunday. But the lot is significant for another reason -- one many people might miss.

The Warrenton Baptist Church landscaped the parking lot with a wider variety of landscape trees than is usually seen in the Town of Warrenton. Church and Town staff consulted with the Warrenton Tree Board to determine what landscape plants might be most appropriate. The Board has been researching and compiling an expanded list of trees and shrubs suitable for planting in our area.

The new lot was landscaped with American hollies, redbuds and silverbells, as well as cryptomeria, sourwood and willow oak trees. Shrubs include viburnums, witch hazels, oak leaf hydrangeas and forsythia "spectabilis."

If you'd like some advice on landscaping plants for your yard or business, get in touch with the Warrenton Tree Board or the Master Gardeners, who are happy to answer horticultural queries from the public. Call (540) 341-7950, ext. 16. ■



### *MAIN STREET, continued from page 1*

such as in front of the Post Office, the material choices were changed during the construction process. In other areas, such as in front of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, the new sidewalks were demolished and replaced when it was determined a change in materials would improve the continuity of the project.

An important feature to Main Street Warrenton's streetscape is the trees. The design for the Improvement Project included replacing damaged and unhealthy trees with trees that are better suited to growing in a downtown setting. An arborist examined each tree to ensure that the existing healthy trees would be preserved.

The Town of Warrenton, working closely with the Partnership for Warrenton Foundation, scheduled the project to minimize the inconvenience to Main Street businesses. "Block" meetings were held prior to the start of the project. The meetings were held not only to provide information about the project, but also, when possible, to reduce scheduling conflicts. In addition, the construction process was designed to keep Main Street open to traffic at all times. The contractor completed the majority of the demolition work in the evenings, which further reduced the disturbance to businesses. Specially designed signs were placed in the construction areas and advertisements were published in local newspapers informing customers and clients that the businesses remained open.

The planned construction schedule was to last from mid-May through early September. But the contractor worked quickly and completed the project the first week of August.

The official public unveiling of the Main Street Improvement Project will be held during two annual events: Evening Under the Stars on September 21, 2002 and the Horseless Carriage Antique Car Show on September 28, 2002. ■

## See Spot Run? Not In Warrenton!

As Warrenton continues to grow and becomes a more suburban community, there are more citizens, and thus, **MORE PETS!**

Pet owners who live in the Town of Warrenton have responsibilities to take care of their animals and to ensure that they do not infringe upon the rights of others. Over the years, the Town has adopted many ordinances concerning the ownership and care of pets, especially dogs.

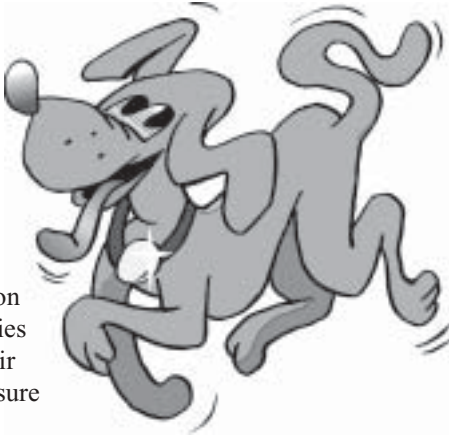
Here is a brief reminder of some of the more significant ordinances governing dog ownership in the Town:

◆ **Barking Dogs.** Dogs that bark continuously could put you at risk of violating the Town's noise ordinance. Pet owners must keep their dogs under control at all times and ensure that their barking does not disturb neighbors.

◆ **Dogs Running at Large.** Dogs are not permitted to run at large (out of control of their owner) anywhere at any time in the Town. Dogs running at large are a traffic hazard, destroy other people's property and often infringe upon the rights of others.

◆ **Walking Your Dog.** In the Town of Warrenton's attempt to become more pedestrian friendly, it has constructed many trails and sidewalks for the exercise and enjoyment of citizens. As you walk your dog along the streets, sidewalks and trails, please note that it is a violation of Town ordinance for your dog to defecate upon anyone else's property without that property owner's permission. In addition, it is a violation of the Town's ordinance to allow your dog to defecate in a public place without you, the owner, cleaning it up.

If you have specific questions about your rights and responsibilities as a pet owner, please contact the Warrenton Police Department at (540) 347-1107, or the Town Manager's Office at (540) 347-4505. ■



## Recycling Reminders

### Cardboard and Newspapers

The Town of Warrenton mandates that all corrugated cardboard and newspapers be recycled. Therefore, all regular refuse that is placed curbside for pickup that contains corrugated cardboard or newspaper will not be picked up by the Town.

If you have corrugated cardboard for recycling, please call (540) 347-1858 before Wednesday (Recycling Day) to be placed on the list for pickup. Make sure your boxes are flattened and stacked neatly for recycling crews.

For newspapers and/or magazines, you do not have to call ahead of time. They should be placed in paper bags or tied with string and placed at the curbside with other recyclables.

In all cases, materials should be placed at the curbside by 8:00 AM on Wednesdays.

### Blue Bag Recycling

The Town of Warrenton provides blue plastic bags for the collection of recyclable materials. Blue bags are intended **ONLY** for glass, plastic, steel and aluminum.

Blue bags that are set out for collection which contain trash, newspaper or non-recyclable items, will not be picked up by Town crews. Yellow stickers will be placed on bags that contain non-recyclable items, and they will be left behind.

Remember that all recyclables must be placed at the curbside by 8:00 AM on Wednesday (Recycling Day). ■

## Stay In Touch At the Town's New Website!

A wealth of information about the Town of Warrenton is available on the Town's new website, [www.townofwarrenton.com](http://www.townofwarrenton.com). In service for about six months, the site has been designed to provide information and assistance to visitors, residents and businesses in a customer friendly manner. Whether you want to keep track of Town government, pay your taxes or water bill, or simply learn about upcoming community events, [www.townofwarrenton.com](http://www.townofwarrenton.com), makes it easy.

"I really like the fact that you have a web site, a way to contact you electronically, and a way to pay online," says Town resident Lt. Colonel Tom Neff. "You must be one of the more progressive small town services! Outstanding!"

Among the many topics and services available to choose from on [www.townofwarrenton.com](http://www.townofwarrenton.com) are:

◆ On-line tax payments -- Create your own profile to

*Continued on page 4*



# Town Police News

## "Residential Speeding Zone" Designation Helps In Traffic Enforcement

The Warrenton Police Department is using a code section established by the Town Council to bolster its traffic enforcement efforts in the Town. Areas designated by the Town Council as "Residential Speeding Zones" allow officers to write higher fines for speeders.



The Town Council passed a law that allowed for an enhanced fine for "Residential Speeding." This addition to the Town Code was authorized under the Virginia State Code. Speeders caught in posted Residential Speeding Zones receive a speeding summons which carries a fine of \$150.00 plus \$42.00 court costs, for a total of \$192.00.

The action comes as the result of citizen concerns about speeding in the Town limits. The results of a survey conducted by the Town of Warrenton Police Department showed that the number one complaint and suggestion made by town residents was that there was a greater need for traffic enforcement.

In keeping with those survey results, the police department has also noted an increase in requests for speed enforcement on residential streets.

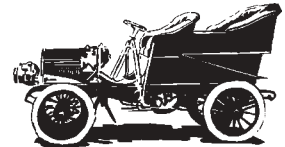
Only the Town Council can designate a street a "Residential Speeding Zone." The following streets have already been designated as such and have been posted with signs:

Waterloo Street ● Winchester Street ● Falmouth Street ● Oak Springs Drive ● Norfolk Drive ● Blue Ridge Street ● Rappahannock Street ● Piedmont Street ● Foxcroft Road ● Culpeper Street ■

## Parking Enforcement, Too

A number of requests for better enforcement of parking regulations, particularly in the Old Town section, also have been received by the police department. In response to these requests, the department is using the increased fines for repeat violators which were authorized by the Town Council. Parking fines now being enforced are:

\$5.00 for first violation  
\$10.00 for second violation  
\$25.00 for third violation  
\$50.00 for fourth and subsequent violations ■



## False Alarms Waste Valuable Police Resources

When people call 9-1-1 in an emergency, they expect quick service. But the increasing number of residential and commercial security system false alarms is consuming more and more police time, potentially diverting officers away from responding to actual crimes and requests for police assistance.

The problem of false alarms has become more acute in the Town of Warrenton and calls for service have dramatically increased in recent years. So the Police Department is taking action by stepping up enforcement of the Town Code that requires that alarms be maintained in working order and not prone to false alarms.

If an alarm system sends out more than two false alarms in one calendar year, the owner becomes liable for Administrative Fees ranging up to \$150.00 for each false alarm. Alarm owners with repeated violations will receive a warning letter before any fees are assessed. ■

## TOWN'S NEW WEBSITE, continued from page 3.

allow you to monitor and pay your real estate and personal property taxes, water accounts, business licenses and to purchase vehicle decals. Payment methods include Visa/MasterCard as well as your personal checking account; there is no service charge or convenience fee attached.

◆ Current financial documents -- Check out the Fiscal Year 2002 - 2003 budget and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). See what services are provided with your taxes!

◆ Town application forms -- A wide variety of forms that may be downloaded directly from the website, i.e. applications for a Business License, Zoning Permits, Building Permits, etc.

◆ Calendar of events and local attractions. Looking for something in the area to do or see? Check out the many events and attractions in Warrenton and Fauquier County!

◆ Town Council news -- Meeting agendas and council minutes archived from 1996 to present are available on the site.

◆ A searchable Code of the Town of Warrenton.

Also included on [www.townofwarrenton.com](http://www.townofwarrenton.com) are the recent News Updates on Town activities, a daily crime report provided by the Warrenton Police Department and e-mail communication links to the Warrenton Town Council and Town staff. Feedback on the website is encouraged and appreciated. ■

# It's Fall Clean-Up Time Again!

Fall Clean-Up Week for the Town of Warrenton is scheduled for October 7 - 11, 2002. Town trucks will provide extra collections in all residential areas to pick up trash, refuse and other items that cannot be handled on the regular weekly schedule.

All items are to be placed at the street line by 8:00 AM on the day scheduled for your area. No return trips can be made.

All trash and refuse must be placed in proper containers. Tree trimmings and brush must be placed separately. Small clippings from bushes or shrubs should be bagged and placed with regular refuse. All metal must be separated from wood and placed separately. Dirt, rocks, sod, old stumps and large logs will not be picked up.

Tree trimmings and brush cut by tree companies and contractors will not be picked up by Town crews; it is the responsibility of the contractor or company doing the work.

Any item containing Freon (refrigerator, air conditioner, dehumidifier, etc.) must be drained of Freon (with certification of drainage) or there will be a five-dollar (\$5) landfill charge that must be paid at the time of pick-up. Items that have been drained must have certification attached. To have an item picked up that has not been drained, please contact Public Works ahead of time to make arrangements to have the item and the landfill fee picked up at the same time. Public Works may be reached at (540) 347-1858.

Regular household refuse and recycling will be picked up as usual on the regularly scheduled days and should be placed separately from clean-up items.

Please see the map below to identify your collection area. ■

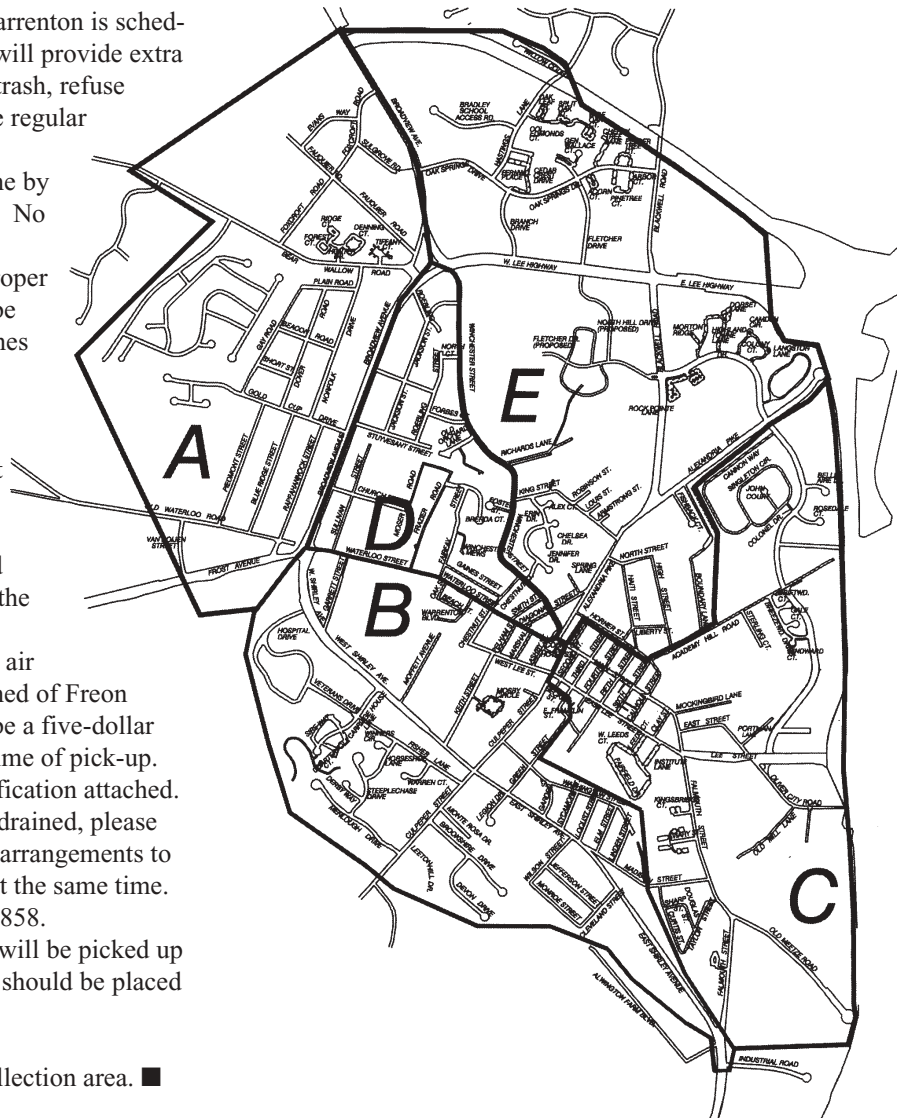
**AREA A: Monday, October 7**

**AREA B: Tuesday, October 8**

**AREA C: Wednesday, October 9**

**AREA D: Thursday, October 10**

**AREA E: Friday, October 11**



## A Clean Yard! Now What About the Waste?

Summertime yard work inevitably leads to a lot of yard waste. Weeds are pulled, lawn clippings raked, branches collected. But where should they go? The Town of Warrenton has a regular collection program for these items, but you have to know what is acceptable and what is not.

All small trimmings (such as clippings, grass and leaves) should be placed in bags and set out with regular refuse. The Town's brush collection program is for larger limbs that can be fed through a chipper. Large logs, stumps, rocks and dirt will not be picked up.

There is no schedule for brush collection; this is a

service that is done by Town crews as time allows. Please place your brush at the curbside or edge of the road, and Town crews will pick it up as scheduling permits.

If you hire a private contractor or landscaping company to do tree trimming or removal, remember that it is the contractor's responsibility to haul the trimmings and brush away. Town collection crews cannot dispose of this waste.

If you have any questions please call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■



## Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

*Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM*

*The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.*

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Economic Development ..... | 347-6574       |
| Finance Department .....   | 347-1102       |
| Inspections .....          | 347-2405       |
| Maintenance Shop .....     | 347-1858       |
| Police Department          |                |
| Office of the Chief .....  | 347-1105       |
| Police Station .....       | 347-1107       |
| Non-emergency .....        | 347-1100       |
| <b>Emergency .....</b>     | <b>911</b>     |
| Planning and Zoning .....  | 347-2405       |
| Recycling .....            | 347-1858       |
| Sewage Plant .....         | 347-1104       |
| Town Hall .....            | 347-1101       |
| Town Manager .....         | 347-4505       |
| Utilities .....            | 347-6574       |
| Water Bills .....          | 347-2678       |
| Water Plant .....          | 347-1103       |
| TTD/TTY .....              | 1-800-828-1120 |

**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency  
347-1100**

## Holiday Refuse Collection Schedule

### Columbus Day -- Monday, Oct. 14, 2002

*Town offices will be closed Monday, October 14, 2002. Trash schedule will be as follows:*

**Monday, 10/14/02** -- Holiday; no refuse collection.

**Tuesday, 10/15/02** -- Monday's refuse collection.

**Wednesday, 10/16/02** -- Tuesday's refuse collection plus regular recycling collection.

**Thursday, 10/17/02** -- Regular refuse collection.

**Friday, 10/18/02** -- Regular refuse collection. ■

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A Newsletter From the  
Town of Warrenton  
P.O. Drawer 341  
Warrenton, VA 20188-0341



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### The Town Crier

is published by the Warrenton Town Council to inform  
citizens of the major events which affect our government and  
community.

#### TOWN COUNCIL

|                                |                                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

**WARRENTON, VIRGINIA 20186**